

Application Serial No: 10/679,686  
In reply to Office Action of 21 January 2005

Attorney Docket No. 83996

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

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Appended to this response are drawing replacement sheets respectively containing Figures 1-5.

The sole changes in the replacement sheets containing Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5 has been the addition of "PRIOR ART" labels in response to the requirement of the Examiner.

The replacement sheets for containing Figure 3 has been changed by the circumscription of boxes 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120 and 122 by a dashed line designated by the reference character 122a. This has been done in response to the Examiner's requirement that the claim element "first stage characterization of said spatial arrangement..." be shown as a distinctive feature. Boxes 123, 124, and 126 are also circumscribed by a dashed line designated reference character 127. This has been done in response to the requirement to provide a distinctive drawing feature for the "second stage characterization of said spatial arrangement...".

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## REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-15 are in the case. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

The above-identified Office Action closes the prosecution of the case on merits, but in accordance with the practice under Ex Parte Quayle, it requires a reply correcting specified formal matters in the drawing, specification and the claims.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the attached drawing correction sheets is requested.

Drawing corrections are provided in compliance with the Examiner's requirement to add "PRIOR ART" labels to Figure 1, 2, 4 and 5.

It is submitted that the corrections to Figure 3 place it in compliance with requirement to show as distinct features in the drawing the first and second stages of characterization of spatial arrangement called for by the claims. Coordination of the specification text with these corrections is provided by adding a new paragraph after page 32, line 14 and by the amendment in line 17 of page 33. Neither dashed line 122a, FIG. 3, circumscribing flow steps 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120 and 122 (providing drawing feature presence of the first stage of spatial arrangement), nor dashed lines 127, FIG. 3, circumscribing flow steps 123, 124, and 126 introduce new matter. In support of this assertion that dashed lines 122a and

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127 do not introduce new matter Applicant submits Attachment 2, appended to this response, which sets forth in a side-by-side manner corresponding: (i) flow steps; (ii) portions of the specification in the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION and in the DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT less the EXAMPLE; and (iii) portions of the specification in the EXAMPLE. It is submitted that by aggregating the teaching and disclosures of these cited corresponding text portions it will be clear that no new matter is added.

Turning now to the corrections and clarifications the Examiner has required in the specification (including the abstract). It is submitted that the amendments made at the original specifications on pages 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 32, 33, 34, and the abstract are in strict compliance with the above-identified office communication. Minor additional corrections and improvement in the coordination of the text with the drawings have been volunteer at page 11, line 1 and page 33, line 5.

Turning now to the claims. The requirement to define "K" in claim 15 is respectfully traversed. The capital letter "K" actually appears in claim 15 in the forms " $K_I$ " and " $K_{II}$ " and therefore has been defined in the equations at lines 13 and 14 of claim 15, so that no further definition is required. All the

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other corrections have been strictly provided. Note that the amendment which defines "M" at claim 1, lines 29-34 is based upon specific text at page 21, lines 21-24. Minor additions, believed clearly supported by specification text or antecedent claim language, have been provided at claim 1, lines 35 (m<sub>2</sub>) and 37 (m<sub>1</sub>); and claim 15 lines 1-3. Their purposes are to improve claim clarity

Applicant respectfully suggests in view of these replacement drawing sheets, and amendments, that all formal matters requiring correction have complied with. Approval of drawing corrections and passage of the case to issue is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Michael F. Oglo, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN, JR.

7 March 2005

By Michael F. Oglo  
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Attachment: (1) Replacement Drawing Sheets respectively  
containing amended Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5  
(2) Chart of Corresponding Elements of Specification  
Text

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